

City of Encinitas

Chemical EMERGENCY

Preparedness and Safety Information



EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS & HOUSEHOLD INFORMATION

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PLANNING FOR A CHEMICAL EMERGENCY

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EMERGENCY SUPPLY KITS & NOAA WEATHER RADIOS

Preparing for Chemical Emergencies

In a chemical emergency, we are on our own for a while. The purpose of this brochure is to acquaint you with information essential for disaster planning and prepare you for chemical emergencies. It is vital that every member of your household be involved and take action now so that when disaster strikes, everyone will know what to do. Study your surroundings for potential sources of hazardous materials so you can plan appropriately.

Keep this brochure in a convenient place.

For more information about natural or man-made disasters, or disaster preparedness planning, please contact the Encinitas Fire Department at 633-2800 or the San Diego County Office of Disaster Preparedness at (858) 565-3490.

This brochure was funded by a Hazardous Materials Emergency Planning Grant (HMEP) from your Local Emergency Planning Committee and the Governor's Office of Emergency Services.

Special thanks is given to FEMA, the Governor's Office of Emergency Services, Washington State Military Department's Emergency Management Division and Kinder Morgan Energy Partners for contributing safety information that was included in this brochure.

EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS & HOUSEHOLD INFORMATION

Emergency Phone Numbers



Name	Phone	Other
•		
•		
•		
•		
•		
• Doctor		
• Police/Sheriff	911	
• Fire Department	911	
• Insurance Agent		

Out-Of-Town Contact

Choose an out-of-town contact that members of your household can call to check on each other. Your contact should have everyone's numbers and live far enough away to be unaffected by the same event.

Name:	Home #:
Address:	Work #:
	Mobile #:
	Email:

Reunion Procedures

Identify reunion locations where everyone can meet if the house cannot be entered. Leave a note in a designated place where you will meet.

Near Home:	
Alternate #1:	
Alternate #2:	

Service Providers

Utilities, insurance, clergy, home health care, legal, etc.

Name	Phone	Other
•		
•		
•		
•		
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Notes and Special Instructions

EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS & HOUSEHOLD INFORMATION

WHERE DO CHEMICAL EMERGENCIES OCCUR?

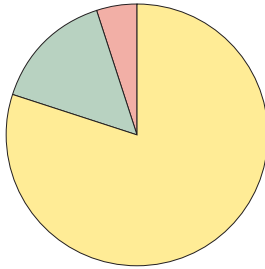
Sources of Potential Accidents

A chemical emergency can occur anywhere hazardous materials are manufactured, stored or transported. Chemical plants are obvious sources of potential accidents. Less obvious are highways, railways and storage containers at places such as swimming pools or water and wastewater treatment facilities.

Pipelines are another less visible source of potential accidents, since they are generally located under the street or buried in rights-of-way.



Although pipelines are the safest method of transporting chemicals, it is important to be aware of the risks posed by potential releases. Major pipelines in our community are clearly marked with signs that include a 24-hour emergency phone number to call in the event that a pipeline is damaged or has ruptured. Most pipeline accidents are caused by people operating a backhoe, posthole digger or other equipment without first determining there is a pipeline nearby.



Hazardous Materials Events by Source (Annually)

- Highway Events 80%
- Railroad Events 15%
- Other Causes 5%

Source: FEMA's Multi Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment Report, 1997



In Encinitas, Interstate 5 and the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Rail line travel through the city for its entire length. Both carry various types of chemicals. Pipelines also transport natural gas and liquid petroleum through our community to facilities in San Diego.

Deliberate Releases / Terrorism

It is important to remember that highways, treatment plants, pipelines and railways (all locations where chemicals are stored, processed or transported) can be potential targets for terrorists. Report any suspicious activities at these locations to local law enforcement by calling 9-1-1.



WHERE DO CHEMICAL EMERGENCIES OCCUR?

What is a chemical emergency?

A major chemical emergency is an accident that releases a hazardous amount of a chemical into the environment. Accidents can happen underground, on railroad tracks or highways and at manufacturing plants. A big part of your plan is determining what to do if you:

- 1) **See a cloud hugging the ground, or if you see a puddle near a pipeline or a mist in the air.** A spot of dead or discolored vegetation in an otherwise green area near a pipeline may indicate a small leak.
- 2) **Smell a sharp odor.** Any strange or unusual odor may indicate a release.
- 3) **Hear an explosion or a hissing or roaring sound coming from a pipeline.**
- 4) **“Taste” some bitter gas.**



The Effects of Chemical Releases

Hazardous chemical releases and spills pose short- and long-term threats to people and the environment. Corrosives, such as chlorine and hydrogen fluoride, can dangerously irritate nose, eyes, throat and air passages. Other substances, such as liquid petroleum gas, can explode or produce violent flames. These releases are not only a threat to those in the immediate vicinity of the spill, but also to those down wind of a chemical release that emits a plume. While such occurrences are rare, preparing for disasters is important. **Experts tell us to plan to be on our own for a minimum of three days.**



The Role of First Responders and Emergency Planners

The City of Encinitas Fire Department works closely with the San Diego Hazardous Materials Incident Response Team (HIRT), the County of San Diego Department of Environmental Health, Office of Disaster Preparedness and the region's Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC), to assess the risks hazardous materials pose to the community and develop appropriate response plans. In a chemical emergency, first responders provide defensive operations at a safe distance from a chemical release to protect the public, the environment and property. The Encinitas Fire Department and the Hazardous Materials Incident Response Team (HIRT) have the responsibility for stopping and controlling the release. Each works closely with the San Diego County Sheriff to ensure that residents are properly notified and evacuated if necessary. **It is important that you remain calm at all times and cooperate with first responders and other local officials during a chemical emergency.**

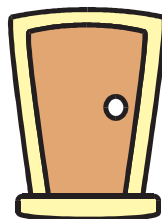


RECOGNIZING A CHEMICAL EMERGENCY

Planning for chemical emergencies

Planning for a major chemical emergency is the same as planning for any disaster. Consider the following tips when developing your emergency plan:

- Discuss chemical emergencies and other disasters with your household. Everyone should know where to go and what to do in case household members are separated from each other.
- Choose a friend or relative to be your household's out-of-town contact. This is someone you and the members of your household can call during a disaster to "check-in" and to learn how other members are doing. This person should have contact numbers (work, cell phone and pager) for everyone in your household and live far enough away that they would not be affected by the disaster.
- Make sure household members carry the out-of-town contact's phone number, plus each other's numbers at all times.
- Develop an evacuation plan for your home or workplace. Try to find two ways out of each room in your home. Learn where emergency exits are at your workplace.
- Pick two meeting places in case you cannot return to your house—one right outside your home and one outside your neighborhood (at least a mile away).
- Look at evacuation plans for your workplace and your children's schools. Know where you or your children may be taken in the event of an emergency. Make sure school officials know how to reach a parent or caretaker in an emergency and that they have up to date emergency contact information.
- Purchase a NOAA Weather Radio with a tone-alert feature to keep you aware of warnings while you are indoors (see section on Emergency Supply Kits & NOAA Weather Radios).
- Carry a health information card or wear a bracelet if you have special medical needs.
- Have your neighbors be ready to assist you in an emergency if you have trouble moving well or quickly.



- Keep your pets in mind when developing your plan. Keep your pet's license and I.D. tags current with your telephone number and your out-of-town contact's number.

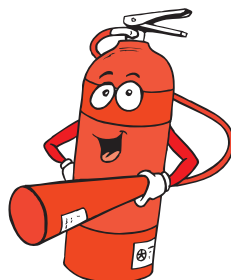
Involve children in your planning

- Ask children to think of items that they would like to include in their own Emergency Supply Kit, such as books, games or appropriate (nonperishable) food items.
- Make sure your child carries a list of contact numbers for everyone in your household and your out-of-town contact.
- Make sure your child knows where to go in case they cannot return home.
- Make sure your babysitter has a copy of your emergency plan with emergency contact numbers.



Put your plan into action

- Display your emergency plan and contact numbers in a visible location.
- Educate members of your household on how to turn off utilities. Keep a 10" or larger wrench near your gas meter in case you need to shut off gas.
- Install fire extinguishers and smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Replace the batteries in your smoke detectors twice a year.
- Conduct a hazard hunt to identify hazards in your home. Secure heavy furniture that could topple.
- Take a first aid and CPR class.
- Review your plan every six months and update it, if necessary.
- Conduct shelter-in-place and evacuation drills. (see section on How to Shelter-in-Place or Evacuate)



What you should do during a major chemical emergency

You are most likely to hear about a chemical emergency through the following means:

- Emergency Alert System (EAS) on radio or television
- NOAA weather radio
- Sirens on emergency vehicles
- Authorities giving instructions over loudspeakers



Radio stations that will carry the information first are **KOGO (AM 600)** and **KPOP (AM 1360)**. Other radio stations will follow with emergency information. All local television stations will broadcast emergency information, as will cable systems. Please be aware that this information will not be broadcast on satellite-based services that do not carry local programming.

During a chemical emergency it is important to:

- Remain calm.
- If there is an explosion and items begin to fall, take cover under a desk or sturdy table.
- If there is a fire, stay low to the floor and exit the building as quickly as possible and use a wet cloth to cover your nose and mouth.
- Call 9-1-1 if you or someone else is hurt or injured.
- If your children are at school, do not leave your house or work to go get them. Schools have emergency plans of their own for dealing with these types of events.
- If you hear a siren on an emergency vehicle, turn on your radio or television for information about the emergency.
- Authorities will inform you of the following using the Emergency Alert System or loudspeakers on emergency vehicles:



- 1) The type of health hazard.
- 2) The area affected.
- 3) How to protect yourself.
- 4) Whether to shelter-in-place or evacuate (see the following section).
- 5) Evacuation routes (if necessary).
- 6) Shelter locations.
- 7) Name and location of medical facilities.
- 8) The phone numbers to call if you need extra help.

- Strictly follow the instructions of emergency officials.
- If you are in a vehicle, avoid driving near the area where the chemical has been released.
- If you are outdoors, move away from the area (preferably upwind and uphill).
- If you find yourself in a vapor cloud or smell an unusual odor, do not light a match, start an engine or even switch on a light.
- Avoid contact with escaping liquids and do not intentionally smell suspected chemical agents.

Chemical emergencies can happen while you are on the road

If you are traveling in your car and a tanker truck carrying dangerous chemicals jack-knifes or overturns nearby, you will need to know how to protect yourself. Remember to:



- Close your car windows and air vents and turn off the heater or air conditioner.
- If you find yourself in a suspected vapor cloud or smell an unusual odor, immediately stop your car and turn off your engine.
- Keep away from clouds or wind-driven gasses.

What to do after a Major Chemical Emergency

- Return home only when authorities say it is safe. Local officials on the scene are the best source of information for your location.
- If you turned off the gas to your home or business, have a utility crew turn it back on.
- Follow local instructions concerning the safety of food and water. Contaminated food or water can cause illness.
- Clean up and dispose of debris carefully. Follow instructions from emergency officials concerning cleanup methods.

HOW TO SHELTER-IN-PLACE OR EVACUATE

In a chemical emergency, you are faced with two choices: whether to **stay** (shelter-in-place) or **go** (evacuate). Sometimes your safest protection is your home, office or car.

When do you Shelter-in-Place?

Sheltering-in-place gives you, the members of your household or your employees immediate protection for a short period of time. Officials will advise sheltering-in-place when:

- The chemical release is expected to last for a short time;
- The chemical has a low health hazard and its release does not call for evacuation;
- There's not enough time to evacuate, or
- Chemical fumes could quickly overtake you if you are outside.

How to Shelter-in-Place

If you are told to shelter-in-place, do the following:



- Take your children and pets indoors immediately.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a damp cloth.
- Close and lock all doors and windows (locking makes a better seal).
- Shut off heating, cooling and fans that draw in air from the outside. If you have a fire place, close the damper. Seal gaps around air conditioning units, bathroom and kitchen exhaust fans, and stove and dryer vents with duct tape.
- Go into a room with the fewest doors and windows.
- Take your Emergency Supply Kit with you.
- Seal cracks around the door and windows with duct tape. Place wet towels between the bottom of the door and floor.
- Listen to local radio or television stations, or a NOAA Weather Radio, for instructions. Radio stations that will carry the information first are AM 600 and AM 1360.
- Stay in the room and listen to your radio or television until you are told all is safe, or you are told to evacuate.
- If you are told there is danger of explosion, close all window shades, blinds, or curtains. To avoid injury, stay away from windows. If windows break due to an explosion, the shades will help prevent glass from shattering into your home.
- Avoid eating or drinking any food or water you suspect may be contaminated.
- Sheltering-in-place at work is essentially the same process as sheltering-in-place at home. Refer to your businesses emergency plan for specific instructions on sheltering-in-place.

How to evacuate during a chemical emergency

Local officials may call for evacuation in those areas at greatest risk. If you are told to immediately evacuate, take your Emergency Supply Kit and bare essentials (such as medications) and leave quickly. Follow the route authorities recommend. Don't take shortcuts- streets may be blocked or you may be exposed to dangerous chemicals.



- Stay calm, listen carefully and follow all instructions.
- If an evacuation order is issued, continue to listen to your radio or television to make sure the evacuation order applies to you, and to understand if you are to evacuate immediately or if you have time to pack some essentials. Authorities will provide information on evacuation routes, temporary shelters and procedures.
- Avoid using the telephone. Call 9-1-1 only in life-threatening emergencies.
- Take your Emergency Supply Kit (see section on Emergency Supply Kits & NOAA Weather Radios). These items may make you more comfortable while you are away from home.
- Move quickly and calmly. Leaving the area quickly will reduce your chance of exposure to hazardous materials. Staying calm will help you move safely and avoid delays or accidents.
- Do not assume that a shelter will have everything you need. Take your own specialty items for infants and those on restricted diets.
- Only if you have time, seal your house so contaminants cannot enter. Turn off all electrical appliances (except your refrigerator) and lights as you leave.
- If you need a ride, ask a neighbor. If your neighbor is not available to help you, listen to local radio or television stations for further instructions.
- Check neighbors to make sure they have been notified, and offer to help those with disabilities or other special needs.
- Take only one vehicle to the evacuation site. Traffic may be very heavy and parking at a shelter may be limited.
- For your safety, follow the exact route you are told to take. Shortcuts may put you in the path of danger.

Emergency Supply Kit

Individuals and organizations should be prepared to be without assistance for a minimum of **72 hours**. That is why it's a good idea to maintain an Emergency Supply Kit. A kit should be kept in your home, office and vehicle at all times. Supplies should be stored in easy-to-carry containers, backpacks or duffel bags.

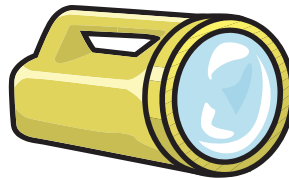
Home Emergency Supply Kits should contain the following supplies:



- ☐ Water (a minimum of three gallons per person).
- ☐ Food (at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food for each person). Select foods that are compact, lightweight and require no refrigeration, cooking or preparation.
- ☐ Baby supplies, such as formula, diapers, bottles, powdered milk and medications, if necessary.
- ☐ Paper plates, plastic utensils and a manual can opener.
- ☐ Vital medications (a 7 day supply), such as heart and high blood pressure medication and insulin.
- ☐ Extra contact lenses or a pair of eyeglasses, if necessary.
- ☐ First aid kit and manual.
- ☐ Utility knife, crowbar, dust mask and work gloves.
- ☐ Toilet paper, towelettes, feminine supplies, plastic garbage bags with ties, soap, hand sanitizer and personal hygiene items, such as shampoo, deodorant, comb, brush toothpaste and toothbrushes.



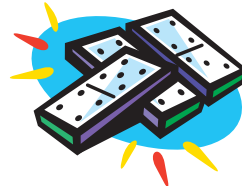
- ☐ Duct tape.
- ☐ Portable radio with extra batteries.
- ☐ Flashlight with extra batteries .
- ☐ Whistle.
- ☐ Blankets and sleeping bags.
- ☐ One complete change of clothing, raingear and footwear for each household member.
- ☐ Copies of important documents including:
 - ☐ Wills, insurance policies, contracts, deeds, stock certificates and bonds.



- ☐ Passports, social security cards, immunization records.
- ☐ Bank account numbers.
- ☐ Credit card account numbers and companies.
- ☐ Inventory of valuable household goods.
- ☐ Names addresses and telephone numbers of doctors and pharmacists.
- ☐ Family records (birth, marriage and death certificates).



- ☐ Small amount of cash and credit cards
- ☐ Food and water for pets.
- ☐ Entertainment, such as games and books.



Your office and vehicle kits may not contain all of these items. Just remember to include those items you think you'll need if you are at work or on the road when a disaster strikes. Also, be sure to replace expired food or water when necessary.

NOAA Weather Radio

Consider purchasing and using a NOAA Weather Radio with a tone alert feature. These radios are the best means for receiving weather warnings from the National Weather Service and disaster-related information through the Emergency Alert System.

The Encinitas Fire Department recommends purchasing a NOAA Weather Radio that has both a battery backup and a Specific Area Message Encoder (SAME) feature, which automatically alerts you when a weather watch or warning is issued or the Emergency Alert System is activated. These radios are sold at many stores and on the Internet. NOAA Weather Radio is the single source for the most comprehensive weather and emergency information available to the public.





City of Encinitas
505 South Vulcan Avenue
Encinitas, CA 92024

Please Read!

Important safety information inside.

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